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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,181	12/02/2003	Richard Thomas Plunkett	PEA01	6713

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SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD
393 DARLING STREET
BALMAIN, 2041
AUSTRALIA

EXAMINER

KAU, STEVEN Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/15/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/727,181	Applicant(s) PLUNKETT ET AL.	
	Examiner Steven Kau	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/2/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary Amendment

1. Applicants filed a preliminary amendment on December 2, 2005:
 - Page 19 of the specification has been amended to delete reference to Figure 413 in the brief description of drawings, as Figure 413 was deleted from the drawings in the Preliminary amendment previously sent on May 5, 2004.
2. Applicants filed a preliminary amendment on June 1, 2004:
 - Minor amendment introduced to the figures is the relocation and re-numbering of Figure 413. The drawing pages 237 and 331 showing these amendments.
 - A suitable brief description of this drawing have been added for introducing the description of Figure 63A.
 - Similarly, an amendment is introduced on page 10 whereby the brief description of Figure 278 has been amended to read "Figure 278 shows power on reset".
 - Figure 413 has been re-numbered as Figure 278 and amended the Brief Description of Drawings.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on December 2, 2004 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Priority

4. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Should applicant desire to obtain the benefit of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) prior to declaration of an interference, a translation of the foreign application should be submitted under 37 CFR 1.55 in reply to this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al (Sato) (US 5,642,439) in view of Jamail (US 5,467,327) and further in view of Tom (US 4,683,496).

With regard to claim 1, Sato discloses a method suitable for halftone representation based on dither process, in that he teaches a method for outputting a portion of a dither matrix stored in a memory {e.g. the second matrix patterns each of which includes a partial set of the threshold values} (Figure 8, col 2, lines 57-67) comprising the step of: (b) reading a plurality of dither values of the dither matrix from the memory, commencing at the start position (col 9, lines 62-67 & col 10, lines 1-22); and (c) outputting a portion of the plurality of dither values read in step (b) {e.g. reading

two or more threshold values of one of a plurality of basic matrix patterns from the storage memory} (col 2, lines 67 & col 3, lines 1-11).

Sato differs from claim 1, in that he does not teach determining a start position and an end position in the memory.

Jamail discloses a method of masking data on a storage medium, in that he teaches (a) determining a start position and an end position in the memory (col 3, lines 62-67 & col 4, lines 1-6).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Sato to include determining a start position and an end position in the memory taught by Jamail because identifying a position within the gap relative to either location can generate the concealed track in the storage medium (col 4, lines 11-26).

With regard to claim 2, Sato teaches that that a plurality of dither matrices are stored in the memory (Figure 9A, col 10, lines 23-39).

Sato differs from claim 2, in that he does not teach wherein step (b) includes reading a plurality of dither values from at least two of the dither matrices simultaneously.

Tom discloses a method of enhancing image, in that he teaches that step (b) includes reading a plurality of dither values from at least two of the dither matrices simultaneously (col 6, lines 37-52).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Sato to include that step (b) includes reading a

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plurality of dither values from at least two of the dither matrices simultaneously taught by Tom to provide an improved system to enhance resolution of a pictorial representation (col 2, lines 23-30).

With regard to claim 3, Sato teaches that the dither matrices are of different sizes {e.g. 24 x 8 and 8 x8 matrices} (Figures 3 & 7, col 7, lines 14-29).

With regard to claim 4, Sato teaches that the plurality of dither values includes a full line of dither values for the dither matrix (Figures 3 & 7, col 7, lines 14-57).

With regard to claim 5, Sato teaches that the plurality of dither values includes a full line of dither values for each of the dither matrices (Figures 3 & 7, col 7, lines 14-57).

Correspondence Information


2. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Kau whose telephone number is (571) 270-1120. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, from 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on (571) 272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



S. Kau
Patent Examiner
Division: 2625
May 30, 2007



TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER